2. The following steps are being taken in the Supreme Court to expedite disposal of cases:—

(i) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed in groups so that they can all be disposed of together.

(ii) In most of the matters, printing of the appeal record is dispensed with, which saves a lot of time and expense of the litigants. In criminal appeals, counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time, which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed, so that the matter could be heard early.

(iii) To save the Court's time, Hon'ble the Chief Justice is taking mentioning matters, which takes about one hour on each day, after the court hours.

(iv) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge in Chambers and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters which were previously being listed in the court. This has been done to save the Court's time.

(v) Specialised benches are constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice and particular types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches for quick disposal.

(vi) Computer technology is soon going to be introduced in the Supreme Court, which is expected to help, reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

(vii) Recently Hon'ble the Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matter should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. The oral arguments on each side are now restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to the counsel in which case a maximam of ten hours are given for oral arguments to counsel on each side. The length of oral arguments by counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing quick disposal of matters.

(viii) A Court Administrator-cum-Registrar General, who is a senior judicial officer, has been appointed very recently so that in conjunction with the present two Registrars there can be a re-organisation of the working of the Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

Approval of sardar sarovar and Narmada Canal Irrigation Projects

467. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sardar Sarover Project and Narmada Canal Irrigation Project are finally approved by all the concerned departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that on completion Narmada Project would give twenty five per cent return every year on total investment; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Gujarat Government have taken required precautions for the safeguards of the environment and the rehabilitation of the oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefit cost ratio of the project was worked out to be about 2

(c) The State Government have prepared an action plan for safeguarding the environment and rehabilitation of the oustees.

Per Hectare cost of Major Dams

468. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare cost of major dams completed and sanctioned during the last three years;